



Lingua franca

English is the [de facto national language](#) of the [United States](#), however, no [official language](#) exists at the Federal level. Nevertheless, [English](#) (specifically [American English](#)) is the primary language used for legislation, regulations, executive orders, treaties, federal court rulings, and all other official pronouncements.

As part of what has been called the [English-only movement](#), some states have adopted legislation granting official status to English. Currently, out of 50 total states, 27 have established English as the official language, while another, Hawaii, has established both English and Hawaiian as official languages. But the English-only movement, also known as Official English movement, suggested the adoption of English as the singular official language in the whole territory of the United States. This movement refers to a [political movement](#) for the use only of the [English language](#) in official government operations through the establishing of English as the only [official language](#) in the [United States](#).

In the last century English has developed into the lingua franca of the world. It is now the language of international business, trade, commerce, politics, finance and science. More than 1 billion people are believed to speak some form of English. For every native speaker there are three non-native speakers. Three quarters of the world's mail is in English and four-fifths of electronic information is stored in English. On one hand it brings the convenience of global communication, but the downside is that the world now faces a variety of forms of English with foreign accent characteristics of the various nations, which are difficult to understand - for native listeners of English and even more so for non-native listeners. Such accents not only allow listeners to identify the non-native speaker's mother tongue, they may also reduce the non-native speaker's intelligibility. Also, a non-native listener's perception of English may be less effective, due to imperfect knowledge of the English.

In fact, there are as many cultures associated with English as there are communities that speak it. By definition a *lingua franca* is composed of several cultures, each of which brings its own social rules and communication mores. If one considers the wide variety of



forms of English it becomes apparent that a unified culture for a *lingua franca* is an impossibility. As there are as many forms of English as there are nations that adopt it, and there is almost no way to unify them, the United States agree to create an unitarian functional system of the English language being used as a *lingua franca* for the global communication among the international and global institutions, as well as among countries. Seeing that there exists a variety of forms of English with foreign accent characteristics of the various nations, which are difficult to understand, the United States maintain that an internationally comprehensive terminology should be created.

Religion

The United States, as democratic federation, follow *Principles of Democracy* and *Bill of Rights*. We respect *Human Rights* as the main rules and laws of behaving. All citizens in USA can freely follow their conscience in matter of religious faith. The real democracy respects individual religious differences. But the role of government is not to guarantee or create one “true” religion. The aim is to protect religious choice of every individual, protect members of ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities. That is the duty of every federal state of the USA.

The state, which guarantees the right for a faith, guarantees also other human rights such as right to assemble or freedom of speech. This combination of religious diversity and religious freedom is a complex process, which is not finished yet. But democracy is a process, as well, not finished product, and liberty in all its forms is also in development.

We have to proclaim, that religion is not absent from daily life in the United States. Religious freedom is one of the most prized liberties of the American people. We fully respect the right of religious organizations to freely participate and contribute to civil society. So, we consider incongruous to talk about the USA as the secular society.

The history of Europe was marked by religious conflicts and bloody wars. Even the Protestant Reformation didn't bring any toleration between religious groups. On the contrary, the reformation led to split the religious unity of Europe. The United States don't want to separate people or to prefer only one universal religion. We believe that everyone have the right to worship and the right for belonging to any religion.



According this, we can't agree with the idea of secularization of the world. We propose to lead people to go in for understanding each other in multireligious world and to tolerate each others religion. We agree with Holland "live-and-let-live" policy that permitted not only Catholics and Protestants, but Jews as well, to live in a spirit of mutual toleration.

Multiculturalism

The United States doesn't have a unique culture. In fact it is the world's most multicultural country which includes representatives of different cultures.

Multiculturalism is an inseparable part of the United States, which is generating a lot of interests among concerned people in the country. Americans are becoming more aware of the importance of multiculturalism. Today, the country has become merged with mixed culture, comprising natives, minorities and immigrants, representing the *melting pot*. The melting pot tradition which co-exists with a belief in national unity implies that all the immigrant cultures are amalgamated without state intervention.

In the United States, multiculturalism is not clearly established in policy at the federal level. Phenomenon of multiculturalism did not only bring a change of social layers, but also made the citizen enjoy equal rights and liberty. This led to the demand for rights from people of various communities and backgrounds. In the last few years, census showed that the amount of Asian Americans and Hispanics has increased rapidly. To deal with this, the US have set the target to create a multicultural society based on equality. On the other hand African Americans, Puerto Ricans or Chinese Americans living in big cities such as New York City have more in common with persons of their ancestral group living in Lagos or San Juan or Hong Kong than they do with other New Yorkers who are white. By contrast, white Americans are beginning to understand that they are not the only owners of the United States. They are a part of it, and they have to get used to sharing privileges and disadvantages with other American citizens of different ethnic backgrounds. If white Americans interact with other cultures they will help their country to unite as one nation.

As regards positive effects of multiculturalism in the United States, the government supports television shows, radio programs and newspapers in minority languages. It also



rendered support to minority celebrations, holidays, music, art and festivals. Liberty in marriage and judiciary laws were also enforced by the [US constitution](#), depending upon ethnicity. Overseas trade was encouraged. Wearing traditional dresses in educational institutions was accepted. In the hiring process, much fairer policy was accepted. Racism or discrimination in schools and colleges became a punishable offense. Introduction of new text books with multicultural perspective was one of positive aspects also. Representation of multicultural nationals in politics, engineering, science and technology, was a significant improvement in general.

Multiculturalism in the United States has definitely shown positive aspects and is still supporting a large number of immigrants, who are engaged actively in education and business. That is why the United States suggest to establish the model of multiculturalism conserving the national unity focused on respecting and following the rights and interests of all cultural groups living in the country. It should be a role of state to make the ethnic groups to be aware of the fact that they are not the only owners of the United States and that they are a part of it, and they have to get used to sharing values with other American citizens of different ethnic backgrounds.

We think that phenomenon of *melting pot* could serve as an example for Forum for the 21st century that toleration, hard work and education will advance any person. The Americans are people from different backgrounds and ethnical groups. Thanks to this diversity, the American culture was not destroyed but has become more enriched. And even if the multiculturalism is not led by the state, there should be some belief in national unity. It doesn't matter if the nation is multicultural or not. From our point of view, the children should be taught in the schools and led by parents and religious authorities in the spirit of toleration without any supra national, supra ethnical, supra cultural, supra racial and supra religious prejudices. The government supposes to guarantee equal rights to every nation. Without this, it is impossible to reach the real multicultural society.